

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-10, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19-23, 25, 28, and 31-35 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for performing database operations, the method comprising the steps of:

reading a first plurality of elements of a first query from a first set of one or more query element tables, the first plurality of elements and the one or more query element tables comprising at least one of a query language command and a command argument;
assembling a query string from the first plurality of elements, the query string comprising a database query command to be executed by a database search engine; and
executing the first query string to retrieve results from one or more source data tables.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of reading a first plurality of elements includes the sub-steps of:

reading a name of a second query element table from a first query element table; and
reading a plurality of arguments for the query string from the second query element table.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of assembling the query string includes the sub-step of assembling a query string that includes a first query language command and the plurality of arguments.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the step of reading a first plurality of elements of a first query from the first set of one or more query element tables further includes the sub-step of reading one or more names corresponding to one or more source data tables from the first query element table.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 4, wherein the sub-step of reading a plurality of arguments for the first query language command from the second query element table includes the sub-step of reading a plurality of names of columns of the one or more source data tables from the second query element table.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein the step of assembling the query string includes the sub-step of concatenating together a first plurality of elements that include the name of the one or more source data tables and the plurality of names of columns.
7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of reading a second query language command from the first query element table.
8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of reading a plurality of names of columns of a target data table from the second query element table.
9. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the step of assembling the query string includes the sub-step of concatenating together a second plurality of elements that include the second query language command and the plurality of names of columns of the target data table.
10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of: reading a second plurality of elements of a query from a second set of one or more query element tables; assembling a data base table storage command string from the second plurality of elements and executing the data base table storage command string in order to modify a target data table.
11. (Original) A method according to claim 10, wherein said storage command string is Structured Query Language UPDATE command string.
12. (Original) A method according to claim 10, wherein said storage command string is Structured Query Language INSERT command string.

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13. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 10, wherein one or more query element tables in said second set of one or more query element tables is also in said first set of one or more query element tables.

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 10, wherein said second plurality of elements contain data used to specify the order location in which data elements are to be stored in the target data table.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of executing said storage command string so as to cause all or a part of said source data set to be stored.

16. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium encoded with a program for performing database operations, said program containing instructions for performing the steps of: reading a first plurality of elements of a first query from a first set of one or more query element tables, the first plurality of elements and the one or more query element tables comprising at least one of a query language command and a command argument; assembling a query string from the first plurality of elements, the query string comprising a database query command to be executed by a database search engine; and executing the first query string to retrieve results from one or more source data tables.

17. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium according to claim 16, wherein the step of reading a plurality of elements includes the sub-steps of: reading a name of a second query element table from the first query element table; reading a plurality of arguments for the query language command from the second query element table; and executing the first query string to retrieve results from one or more source data tables.

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18. (Original) The computer readable medium according to claim 17, wherein the step of assembling the query string includes the sub-step of assembling a query string that includes a first query language command and the plurality of arguments.
19. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium according to claim 17, wherein the step of reading a first plurality of elements of a first query from the first set of one or more query element tables further includes the sub-step of reading one or more names corresponding to one or more source data tables from the first query element table.
20. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium according to claim 19, wherein the step of reading a plurality of arguments for the first query language command from the second query element table further includes the sub-step of reading a plurality of names of columns of the one or more source data tables from the second query element table.
21. (Original) The computer readable medium according to claim 20, wherein the step of assembling the query string includes the sub-step of concatenating together a first plurality of elements that include the name of the one or more source data tables and the plurality of names of columns.
22. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium according to claim 17, wherein the program further contains instructions for performing the step of reading a second query language command from the first query element table.
23. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium according to claim 22, wherein the step of reading a plurality of arguments for the query language command from the second query element table includes the sub-step of reading a plurality of names of columns of a target data table from the second query element table.

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24. (Original) The computer readable medium according to claim 23, wherein the step of assembling the query string includes the sub-step of concatenating together a second plurality of elements that include the second query language command and the plurality of names of columns of the target data table.

25. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium according to claim 16, wherein the program further contains instructions for performing the steps of:

reading a second plurality of elements of a query from a second set of one or more query element tables;

assembling a data base table storage command string from the second plurality of elements; and

executing the data base table storage command to modify a target data table.

26. (Original) The computer readable medium according to claim 25, wherein said storage command string is Structured Query Language UPDATE command string.

27. (Original) The computer readable medium according to claim 25, wherein said storage command string is Structured Query Language INSERT command string.

28. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium according to claim 25, wherein one or more query element tables in said second set of one or more query element tables is also in said first set of one or more query element tables.

29. (Original) The computer readable medium according to claim 25, wherein said second plurality of elements contain data used to specify the order location in which data elements are to be stored in the target data table.

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30. (Original) The computer readable medium according to claim 25, wherein the program further contains instructions for performing the step of executing said storage command string so as to cause all or a part of said source data set to be stored.

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31. (Currently Amended) A data processing system comprising:

a storage device for storing a relational database; and

a processor programmed to:

read a first plurality of elements of a first query from a first set of one or more query element tables, the first plurality of elements and the one or more query element tables comprising at least one of a query language command and a command argument;

assemble a query string from the first plurality of elements, the query string comprising a database query command to be executed by a database search engine; and

execute the first query string to retrieve results from one or more source data tables.

32. (Currently Amended) A data processing system according to claim 31, wherein the processor is further programmed to:

read a second plurality of elements of a query from a second set of one or more query element tables;

assemble a data base table storage command string from the second plurality of elements; and

execute the data base table storage command to modify a target data table.

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33. (Currently Amended) A data processing system comprising:

means for storing one or more data tables;

means for reading a first plurality of elements of a first query from a first set of one or more query element tables, the first plurality of elements and the one or more query element tables comprising at least one of a query language command and a command argument;

means for assembling a query string from the first plurality of elements, the query string comprising a database query command to be executed by a database search engine; and

means for executing the first query string to retrieve results from one or more source data tables.

34. (Currently Amended) A data processing system according to claim 33, further comprising:

means for reading a second plurality of elements of a query from a second set of one or more query element tables;

means for assembling a data base table storage command string from the second plurality of elements;

and

means for executing the database table storage command to modify a target data table.

35. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a data structure including:

a name of a first table that includes data to be processed; and

a name of a second query element table that includes arguments to be used in composing a database command to process the data.

36. (Original) The computer readable medium according to claim 35, wherein the data structure further includes identification of an SQL command to be used in processing the data.